



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Red Rock  
Ranger District

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File Code: 2230

Date: June 6, 2014

Bruce Johnson  
Bar D Cattle Company, LLC  
9060 W. El Cortez Place  
Peoria, AZ 85383

Dear Bruce,

This document serves as your 2014 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Beaver Creek Allotment. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a).

The grazing schedule below provides direction for cattle grazing on the Beaver Creek Allotment through October/November 2014 and will be amended after a scheduled meeting in October/November to provide guidance for livestock grazing for the remaining 2014 grazing year.

#### I. AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK NUMBERS/PERIOD OF USE/APPROVED NON-USE

Your 2014 Authorized Use Request has been approved and you are authorized the following Livestock Numbers and Periods of Use:

Beaver Creek Unit:

478 cow/calf	Mar 1, 2014 to Feb 28, 2015
42 bulls	Mar 1, 2014 to Feb 28, 2015
5 horses	May 1, 2014 to Oct 10, 2014

Landmark Unit:

150 Yearlings	May 15 to Oct 15, 2013
5 horses	May 1, 2014 to Oct 10, 2014

#### II. GRAZING SCHEDULE

The Annual number of livestock and dates are considered approximate. The actual dates and numbers may change due to many variables. Annual stocking levels (annual authorized livestock numbers and dates) are determined based on current and expected forage production; livestock numbers can and should be adjusted if conditions change, either up or down; but not in excess of the permitted numbers.

The grazing schedule addressed in this AOI is from March 1, 2014 through this fall when calves are shipped, this will help in determining the dates and numbers of the remaining livestock for the remainder of the grazing year.

The following is the planned grazing sequence of the 2014 grazing schedule.

PASTURE NAME	PLANNED GRAZING PERIOD	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS
Beaver Creek Allotment		



<b>Beaver Creek Allotment</b>		
Valley South	4/08/14 – 4/15/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Lawrence Crossing (trail through)	4/15/14 – 4/16/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Walker Creek	4/16/14 – 4/21/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Old Bull	4/21/14 – 4/24/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Deadwood (trail through)	4/25/14 – 4/30/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Trail	5/01/14 – 5/21/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Roundup (trail through)	5/22/14 – 5/26/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Tinney South	5/27/14 – 6/09/14	478 cows/42 bulls
New Tank	6/10/14 – 7/01/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Brady South	7/02/14 – 7/21/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Banfield/Goswick	7/22/14 – 7/31/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Buck Mountain	8/01/14 – 9/02/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Bar D	9/03/14 – 9/16/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Shipping 3	9/17/14 – 9/21/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Shipping 2	9/22/14 – 9/28/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Shipping 1	9/29/14 – 10/6/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Happy Jack	10/07/14 – 10/27/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Lower Jacks	10/28/14 – 11/10/14	478 cows/42 bulls
Bar D Headquarters	5/01/14 – 10/01/14	5 horses
<b>Landmark Unit</b>		
Landmark Shipping	5/15/14 – 5/21/14	150 yearlings
Landmark North	5/22/14 – 6/30/14	150 yearlings
Triangle	7/01/14 – 8/20/14	150 yearlings
Landmark South	8/21/14 – 9/25/14	150 yearlings
Shipping #3 & Waldrop	9/26/14 – 10/10/14	150 yearlings
Landmark Shipping	10/11/14 – 10/15/14	150 yearlings
Holding Trap	5/12/14 – 10/01/2014	5 horses

Trailing from pastures authorized under the 2014 AOI will be completed within a five (5) day period, where feasible, and livestock will be actively herded from one pasture to the next.

Changes from the grazing schedule will be made only with Forest Service approval. The planned use period in a pasture may be shortened or lengthened depending on forage availability and utilization in key areas. Livestock pasture moves will be completed within a five (5) day period, where feasible, and livestock will be actively herded from one pasture to the next. Once a pasture move occurs, cattle are not authorized to graze outside the newly occupied pasture. In the event cattle escape the assigned pasture (i.e. pasture gates left open, cattle guards become filled-in, cut fences, etc.), you will return the cattle to the correct pasture in a timely manner. Preventing livestock from grazing adjacent allotments, rested pastures, or from re-grazing previously used pastures is your responsibility.

Rested (Un-grazed) Pastures for the 2014 Grazing Season:  
Woodland, Upper Jacks and Hollingshead West.

#### GRAZING STRATEGY

The length of the actual grazing period in each pasture will be determined by the allowable use established for the pasture and monitoring; however, the actual use period will not exceed 45 days per pasture.

### III. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

### Structural Range Improvements

New fence projects will be implemented only with prior approval and after a successful completion/clearance of both biological and archeological surveys from Forest Service personnel.

<b>Improvements to fix/repair:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
Tinney North/South electric fence convert to barb	T15N, R7/8E, Sec 30, 25 & 26
Valley North/Miss Cindy electric fence convert to barb	T15N, R6E, Sec 16, 21, 20 & 29
<b>Improvements to Remove:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
New Tank/Horse Knoll fence	T15N, R8E, Sec 28, 32 & 33/T14N, R8E, Sec 5
Pine Ridge/Harris fence	T15N, R8E, Sec 20, 29 & 28
Shipping #3 & Waldrop fence	T15N, R9E, Sec 13 - 15

### Range Improvement Maintenance

Range improvements assigned to you are to be fully maintained annually to comply with permit requirements (Part 2, section 8i). Any maintenance you perform must conform to the standards specified by your District Rangeland Management Specialist. The grazing permittee is responsible for all maintenance materials, supplies and equipment necessary to properly maintain all range structural improvements. The Forest will replace range structural improvement materials and/or supplies at the end of the improvement's life; when maintenance and repair is no longer feasible to keep the improvement properly maintained and functioning.

**Please note that you must notify the District Rangeland Management specialist at least 60 days prior to beginning any maintenance work that requires the use of heavy equipment (ex. Maintenance of earthen stock tanks). Please also note the updated leopard frog mitigation (for tank cleaning) letter toward the end of this document.**

### Removal/disposal of dead livestock

Dead livestock found near a live stream, spring, earthen stock pond or other water source, roadway or trail will be promptly removed to a distance of at least 300 feet away from these features.

## **IV. RESOURCE MONITORING**

### Allowable Grazing Intensity and Utilization Guidelines

#### Grazing Intensity

Grazing intensity is defined as the amount of herbage removed through grazing or trampling during the grazing period. Grazing intensity would be managed to allow for the physiological needs of plants. This may result in adjustments to the pasture use schedule as indicated in the Grazing Schedule (section II).

Generally, grazing intensity would be managed at; light levels (0-30%) during the critical growth period of plants. Moderate levels (40-50%) in the early summer months when sufficient opportunity exists for plant re-growth. Conservative levels (30-40%) during mid to late summer to the dormant period when the potential for plant re-growth is limited. Moderate levels (40-50%) in the dormant months when the plants are less vulnerable to grazing.

The length of the actual grazing period in each pasture will be determined by the allowable intensity established for the pasture; as a result, the planned use period in a pasture may be adjusted depending on forage intensity in key areas.

#### Forage Utilization

Utilization monitoring would occur at the end of the growing season within each of the main grazing pastures. Utilization is defined as the proportion of degree of current years forage production that is consumed or destroyed by animals (including insects). It is a comparison of the amount of herbage left compared with the amount of herbage produced during the year. Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season when the total annual production can be accounted for and the affects of grazing in the whole management unit can be assessed. Forage utilization within each pasture will be monitored and the allowable utilization standards (section IV) will be strictly enforced.

Key areas for forage utilization monitoring have been identified for the Beaver Creek Allotment. Key areas are defined as, "...a portion of range, which because of its location, grazing or browsing value, and/or use, serves as an indicative sample of range conditions, trend, or degree of use seasonally. A key area guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part." Key areas generally have the following characteristics: approximately 20 to 500 acres in size, located on productive soils with slopes less than 15%, have a plant community that is representative of the larger area, and generally located 0.25 to 1.0 miles away from livestock water sources.

The location of key areas for forage utilization monitoring, key vegetation species, and the specific application to your allotment should be discussed with your Rangeland Management Specialist. Permittee participation in utilization monitoring is encouraged.

#### Upland Areas:

The allotments maximum allowable utilization in upland, non-riparian areas is 50%. This allowable use level is the utilization level permitted by both livestock and wildlife. If use levels in key areas exceed the maximum allowable utilization level before livestock enter a pasture, the pasture will not be used.

#### Riparian Areas:

Many of the allotments riparian areas have been partially fenced to control livestock grazing use. These very important and diverse habitat areas will be closely monitored to insure that the proper allowable use level is not exceeded. To comply with the Forest Land Management Plan, the District will coordinate with you to improve maintain riparian vegetative communities by promoting three age classes of woody vegetation. A maximum allowable utilization level of 20% on woody species is acceptable if all three classes of riparian vegetation are present. If the mid-age class is absent, the maximum allowable use level on woody species will be limited to 5%.

Forage utilization within each pasture will be closely monitored and the forage utilization standards will be strictly enforced. This may result in earlier pasture moves than indicated in the Grazing Schedule (section II). The location of key areas for forage utilization monitoring, key vegetation species, and the specific application to your allotment should be discussed with your rangeland management specialist.

#### Permittee Monitoring

The permittee will document the following items on the enclosed Actual Use Form during the 2013 grazing year: 1) Actual Grazing Period, and 2) Actual Livestock Numbers. **It is very important that the Actual Use form is submitted twice to your Rangeland Management Specialist 15 days after shipping and by 2/15 of the following year.**

You are encouraged to participate in Intensity and Utilization Monitoring.

#### DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

Drought is an inevitable occurrence in the southwestern United States. Both the Forest Service and grazing permittees must plan for drought as a normal part of management. During periods of drought, the following management actions may be necessary:

- Stocking levels may need to be reduced. Reductions may be necessary prior to the permitted season of use and/or during the permitted season of use.
- Season of use may need to be shortened. Depending on the severity of the drought and the stocking level, a reduced grazing season may be necessary.
- Pasture use periods may need to be shortened. Pastures will not be re-grazed during the same grazing season and this may ultimately result in an early exit from the allotment.
- Utilization and/or seasonal utilization (grazing intensity) standards may need to be reduced. Depending on the severity of the drought and the stocking level, reduced utilization standards will likely result in shortened pasture use periods and may ultimately result in an early exit from the allotment.
- Lack of livestock water, or poor distribution of livestock water, may result in reduced pasture/allotment use periods. Depending on forage conditions, this effect may be mitigated by hauling water to temporary livestock watering facilities.

#### V. MITIGATION MEASURES FOR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

Attached are two (2) grazing mitigation documents that include grazing mitigation measures for the Mexican spotted owl and the Chiricahua leopard frog. Please review and familiarize yourself with these required grazing measures; Forest Service personnel will field check your compliance with these mitigation requirements.

#### VI. SALTING AND PROTEIN BLOCK PRACTISES

Proper salt and protein block location can be a good tool to aid in livestock distribution and they will be used in a manner to spread livestock utilization throughout the pasture. A detailed description of the Coconino National Forest Salting and Supplemental Feeding policy can be found in Part 3 of your term grazing permit; however, the following guidelines are provided as a general reference:

1. In general, salt and protein blocks should not be placed within ¼ mile of water, roads, or trails.
2. Salt and protein blocks will not be placed in areas of depleted range, erosive soils, sensitive plant or animal species, riparian areas, mountain meadows, or non-riparian drainages in ponderosa pine unless being used for a watershed restoration project..
3. No more than three blocks (50 lb. blocks) of salt/protein will be placed at any location at any one time.
4. Salt/protein will not be placed at the same location twice during the same grazing season.
5. The use of portable salt/protein block containers is encouraged but not mandatory.

#### VII. PORTABLE WATER HAULING

Temporary sites for hauling portable water may be needed and should be used as necessary to assist in livestock distribution. The following requirements will apply to portable water locations:

\*Archeological and Biological Clearances must be completed prior to placing portable waters.\*

1. Coordinate with the District Rangeland Management Specialist to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures prior to the grazing period.
2. To aid in livestock distribution, the portable water haul locations should generally be in areas of light forage utilization.
3. Generally, portable water haul locations will not be located at sites used in previous years.
4. Portable water hauls will not be located in areas of depleted range, erosive soils, or sensitive plant or animal species.
5. Portable water haul locations will be moved when the desired forage utilization levels have been reached.
6. Portable haul water storage tanks and troughs will be removed when livestock leave the pasture.
7. Water hauling vehicles (water tenders) will follow the Travel Management Rules (found below under XI. MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS).

#### VIII. FIRE

Please use caution during all ranch activities that could potentially start a fire. **All ranch vehicles must be equipped with an axe, shovel, and water bucket.** All open camp and branding fires require a ten foot fire ring cleared down to mineral soil.

During periods of critical fire danger the Forest Supervisor may declare a Red Flag Alert or issue other special orders. Under these conditions, the building or use of fires, the use of power saws, heavy equipment, ATV's and other motorized equipment may be prohibited on Forest Service land. All Federal, State and Local fire restrictions and regulations must be observed.

Report all fires to the Ranger District Offices at: Red Rock (928-282-4119), Happy Jack (928-477-2172), Mogollon Rim (928-477-2255); or to the Coconino National Forest Fire Dispatch Office (928-526-0600). Cooperation in the reporting, prevention, and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Part 2, section 10 of your Term Grazing Permit.

#### IX. MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

On May 1, 2012, the Coconino National Forest began implementation of the Travel Management Rule. The Travel Management Rule requires the designation of roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use and these routes are identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Implementation of the Travel Management Rule requires active management of all motorized use, including use related to permitted grazing activities. Motorized travel off the designated road system, including off-road access, by grazing permit holders will be based on the need to carry out required management practices necessary to comply with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit. Examples of required management practices include, but are not limited to: the repair and maintenance of structural range improvements; transport and placement of mineral and protein supplement; herding of livestock; and tending to sick or injured animals. Legitimate motorized use off the designated road system, including off-road access, for conducting activities required under the Term Grazing Permit will be authorized as follows:

1. **For motorized use with ATVs, UTVs, motorcycles, and full-size pickup or smaller vehicles (curb weight less than 8,000 pounds):** Grazing permittee must obtain a grazing allotment specific Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit. Motorized vehicle use off the designated road system will be limited to only that use which absolutely necessary for compliance with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit.
2. **For motorized use with larger vehicles (curb weight greater than 8,000 pounds or larger than a full-size pickup) or any heavy equipment:** Grazing permittee must obtain a site specific



Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit. Motorized vehicle use off the designated road system will be limited to only that use which absolutely necessary for compliance with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit.

To request site specific Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit, the grazing permittee must provide their Rangeland Management Specialist with the project details a minimum of 30 days prior to the proposed starting date for the permit.

3. A copy of the approved Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit must be with the vehicle operator while operating the vehicle off the designated road system.
4. A Permit Placard must be attached to all permitted vehicles while operating off the designated road system.
5. Off-Highway vehicles (ATVs, UTVs, and motorcycles) used for conducting activities required under the Term Grazing Permit must be licensed and permitted in accordance with Arizona State law.
6. The Motor Vehicle Use Map for the Coconino National Forest identifies certain roads as "Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only". These roads are open only to motor vehicles licensed under State law for general operation on all public roads within the state. Grazing permittees operating motor vehicles on these roads must comply with the legal requirements. Operating a motor vehicle off the designated road system to avoid the legal requirements of "Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only" is not permitted.
7. Grazing permittees will utilize motorized vehicles off the designated road system in a manner that will not result in damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, wildlife, heritage, or other forest resources.
8. Failure to comply with the conditions of the Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit may result in the immediate cancellation of the Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit and the issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance for violation of the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit.

Grazing permittees that do not obtain a Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit are required to operate motorized vehicles only on the designated road system. Operating a motorized vehicle off the designated road system without a valid Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit will result in the immediate issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance for violating the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit (Part 2, Section 8a). A Notice of Non-Compliance may result in Term Grazing Permit suspension or cancellation proceedings.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please contact Kathy Sevy at (928) 203-7537.

Sincerely,



NICOLE BRANTON  
District Ranger

### Actual Use Form

Allotment Name: Beaver Creek

Year: Mar 2014 to Feb 2015

[illegible]

Note: Permittee to Fill out Sections with an \*